

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 10 has been amended to in the way suggested by the Examiner in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102/103.

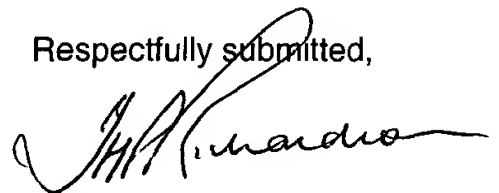
The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 2, 5 and 10-14 as unpatentable over Kao Corp. JP-4-100534A, insofar as they are applicable to the amended claims.

The Examiner is thanked for his careful clarification of the previous rejection, and for his helpful suggestion of an amendment that would overcome the rejection. As noted above, the amendment suggested by the Examiner has been made, and it is believed to be clear that this application is now in condition for allowance.

If, however, there are any outstanding issues which could usefully be discussed by telephone, the Examiner is asked to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



T. H. P. Richardson

Registration No.28,805

Tel No. 650 854 6304



d



Docket No. 12969

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bitler

Group Art Unit: 1714

Serial No.: 09/398,377

Examiner: Szekely, P.

Filing Date: 09/17/99

Title: Polymeric Thickeners for Oil-Containing Compositions

Version with Markings to show Changes requested by the Reply mailed July 23, 2001 in
accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 (c) (1) (ii)

This paper sets out a version of each of the claims rewritten as requested by the Reply filed July 23, 2001 (but not the claims which were unchanged), marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the claim. In this version,

- (i) a parenthetical expression (which is the same as the parenthetical expression in the clean version of claims set out in the Reply) follows the claim number and indicates the status of the claim as amended, and
- (ii) the changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

10. (Three times amended) A thickened oil composition comprising

- (1) an oil, and
- (2) dispersed in the oil, a polymer which
 - (a) has a crystalline melting point, T_p , and an onset of melting temperature, T_o , such that $T_p - T_o$ is less than $T_p^{0.7}$;
 - (b) is soluble in the oil at temperatures above T_p .

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

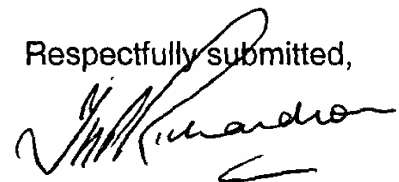
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231
On July 23, 2001

Typed name of person signing this certificate: T.H.P. Richardson
Signature

- (c) has been dispersed in the oil by a process which comprises
- (i) dissolving the polymer in the oil at a temperature above T_p , and
 - (ii) cooling the solution to crystallize the polymer in the oil, and
- (d) is a side chain crystalline (SCC) polymer which is substantially free of functional groups, and which consists [essentially] of
- (i) 50 to 100% by weight of units derived from at least one n-alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the n-alkyl group contains 12 to 50 carbon atoms, and
 - (ii) less than 50% by weight of units derived from at least one alkyl acrylate or methacrylate in which the alkyl group is not an n-alkyl group containing 12 to 50 carbon atoms;

the composition being at a temperature below T_p .

Respectfully submitted,



T. H. P. Richardson

Registration No. 28,805

Tel No. 650 854 6304

d